

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 176951  
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DRAFTED BY:AF/W:JLEWIS

APPROVED BY:AF/W:TWMSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS STATE 176951

FOLLOWING REPEAT NOUAKCHOTT 1879 ACTION SECSTATE DATED JULY 10, 1978.

QUOTE: UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1879

C

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MR

SUBJ: COUP D' ETAT IN MAURITANIA: COMMUNIQUE FROM DIPLOMATIC  
CORPS DEAN

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NOTE FROM DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS  
ROUGH TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH FOLLOWS: QUOTE WHAT HAS HAPPENED  
(THE COUP D'ETAT) IS A DOMESTIC AFFAIR AND DOES NOT AFFECT ANY  
OTHER COUNTRY OR MISSION. THERE ARE THINGS WHICH HAVE HAPPENED  
IN NOUAKCHOTT WHICH EVERYONE IS AWARE OF-- ESPECIALLY ON THE  
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SIDE AS WELL AS THE WAR AND THE DROUGHT.  
ALL THESE FACTORS ARE GOING TO WORK AGAINST THE COUNTRY'S  
INTERESTS. AND IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES IN THIS MANNER  
MAURITANIA WILL BE CROSSED OFF THE MAP ESPECIALLY AS ALL  
THE PEOPLE ARE LIVING IN A STATE OF MISERY BECAUSE THERE  
ARE A NUMBER OF PROFITEERS WHO HAVE TAKEN OVER THE MAURITANIAN  
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ECONOMY AND THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE A RELATIVE IN THE  
GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO  
HAVE A JOB. ADD TO THIS THE SOCIAL POSITIONS OF THE TRIBES  
WHO HAVE FOR A LONG TIME BEEN MADE TO WAGE THE WAR, AND IT  
HAS BECOME DIFFICULT TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY. THIS IS WHY  
THE MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR THE RECLAMATION OF THE COUNTRY HAS  
TAKEN UPON ITSELF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SAVING THE HONOR OF

THE COUNTRY.

QUOTE THE COMMITTEE WILL HONOR ALL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS, AND WILL PROTECT ALL FOREIGNERS RESIDING IN THE COUNTRY. FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FOREIGNERS THE COMMITTEE IS IMPOSING A CURFEW, AND CLOSING THE BORDERS AND THE AIRPORT, AND CUTTING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 24 HOURS. PASSES TO MOVE ABOUT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY BY THE COMMITTEE.

QUOTE COMMITTEE IS STUDYING THE SITUATION AND WILL CREATE AN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO SOLICIT THE OPINIONS OF ALL SOCIAL CLASSES CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY. A MOSTLY CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE INSTALLED SOON TO INITIATE THE WORK.

QUOTE THE COMMITTEE REITERATES THAT IT IS A DOMESTIC AFFAIR.

END TRANSLATION. END QUOTE. KRYZA UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, COMMUNIQUE, DIPLOMATIC CORPS DEAN  
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